GUIDE TO THE FE11 TALLENSI FILE

[This file contains ten sources, seven of which are by Meyer Fortes, a leading British social anthropologist, with other contributions by R. S. Rattray, C. W. Lynn, and A. W. Cardinall. Fortes received his degree in psychology at the University of London and subsequently studied under Bronislaw Malinowski and A. R. Radcliffe-Brown before going into the field. Rattray, Lynn and Cardinall were all government officials at the time of their field work, with only Rattray having any real understanding of anthropological methods.

Since Fortes' basic orientation is toward the delineation of social structure and the function of the social groups within it, the File is very strong in these aspects, particularly in the functioning of kinship groups at the death of an individual, and with other aspects of culture as they impinge upon the interrelationships of the groups within the structure. As a result of this orientation, Fortes treats material culture and economics very sparingly. Cardinall and Rattray were also particularly interested in the social and political aspects of culture and also failed to treat material culture other than in passing. The addition of Lynn's monograph fills a gap in the economic sphere, but, in general, the data on economics, subsistence, history, material culture and human biology are rather skimpy.

The only special marking decision has been to place data on what Rattray calls the "clan" into category 614, Sibs.]

Processed in 1957-58